

MONTANA CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
MONTANA FIELD OFFICE
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 Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 6, 2020

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: Dry conditions and warm temperatures were observed across Montana during the past week, according to the Mountain Regional Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA. Reporters in Valley and Sweet Grass counties noted that several fires are spreading across the state, fueled by high winds, hot temperatures and dry conditions. Topsoil moisture conditions for the state were 26 percent adequate to surplus, compared to 31 percent in the previous week and 74 percent the previous year. Subsoil moisture conditions were rated 39 percent adequate to surplus compared to 68 percent the previous year. Barley harvest made good progress last week, with an estimated 80 percent of the crop harvested, ahead of the previous year at 74 percent, but behind the 5-year average of 87 percent. Corn for silage harvest is progressing well, with an estimated 20 percent of the crop harvested, ahead of the previous year at 19 percent, but behind the 5-year average of 21 percent. Dry edible bean harvest is moving along steadily, with an estimated 65 percent of the crop harvested, ahead of the previous year at 46 percent. Dry edible pea and lentil harvest is almost complete, with an estimated 98 percent of the dry pea crop and 95 percent of the lentil crop harvested, compared to the previous week at 92 percent and 89 percent, respectively. Durum wheat harvest made great progress last week, with an estimated 75 percent of the crop harvested, compared to 46 percent the previous week and the 5-year average of 72 percent. Oilseed harvest continues, with an estimated 58 percent of flaxseed and 67 percent of the mustard seed crop harvested, compared to the previous year at 16 percent and 45 percent, respectively. Safflower harvested is estimated at 25 percent complete, ahead of the previous year and 5-year average at 7 percent and 20 percent, respectively. Oat harvest is starting to wrap up, with an estimated 83 percent of the crop harvested, equal to the 5-year average, and ahead of the previous year at 66 percent. Spring wheat harvested is estimated at 84 percent complete, significantly ahead of the previous year at 57 percent, and slightly ahead of the 5-year average of 83 percent. Second cutting for alfalfa and other hay is progressing ahead of the previous year, with 84 percent of alfalfa and 70 percent of other hay harvested. Winter wheat harvest is virtually complete, with an estimated 97 percent of the crop harvested, ahead of the previous year at 88 percent and the 5-year average of 96 percent. Planting of the 2021 winter wheat crop has begun, with an estimated 5 percent of the crop planted. Dry conditions have sped up movement of cattle and sheep from summer pasture, with an estimated 9 percent of cattle and calves and 11 percent of sheep and lambs moved from pasture. Reporters continue to note that grasshoppers, along with the dry conditions, are depleting pasture condition and stunting regrowth across the state.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Alfalfa hay				
2 nd cutting harvested	84	74	79	NA
Barley				
Harvested	80	69	74	87
Canola				
Harvested	65	50	38	69
Corn				
Harvested for silage	20	10	19	21
Dry edible beans (includes Chickpeas)				
Harvested	65	54	46	73
Dry edible peas				
Harvested	98	92	87	NA
Durum wheat				
Harvested	75	46	36	72
Flaxseed				
Harvested	58	37	16	58
Lentils				
Harvested	95	89	82	NA
Mustard seed				
Harvested	67	54	45	71
Oats				
Harvested	83	77	66	83
Other hay				
2 nd cutting harvested	70	62	68	82
Safflower				
Turning color	90	75	62	NA
Harvested	25	20	7	20
Spring wheat				
Harvested	84	74	57	83
Winter wheat				
Harvested	97	93	88	96
Planted	5	NA	1	2
Cattle and calves				
Moved from pasture	9	6	6	NA
Sheep & Lambs				
Moved from pasture	11	6	NA	NA

NA – not available

(--) – zero

DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
Days suitable for field work.....	6.7	6.7	5.3	5.9
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	16	16	4	28
Short.....	58	53	22	28
Adequate.....	26	30	67	40
Surplus.....	--	1	7	4
Subsoil moisture				
Very short.....	12	15	5	23
Short.....	49	52	27	34
Adequate.....	39	32	65	40
Surplus.....	--	1	3	3

NA – not available

(--) – zero

CROP, LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Corn				
Very poor.....	--	--	1	2
Poor.....	1	--	4	8
Fair.....	21	20	24	28
Good.....	62	63	59	50
Excellent.....	16	17	12	12
Durum wheat				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	NA
Poor.....	--	--	2	NA
Fair.....	47	60	55	NA
Good.....	38	31	35	NA
Excellent.....	15	9	8	NA
Flaxseed				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	NA
Poor.....	--	--	--	NA
Fair.....	20	27	50	NA
Good.....	60	48	32	NA
Excellent.....	20	25	18	NA
Pasture and range				
Very poor.....	16	16	3	17
Poor.....	24	26	6	20
Fair.....	35	35	26	31
Good.....	23	16	49	27
Excellent.....	2	7	16	5
Safflower				
Very poor.....	--	--	--	4
Poor.....	4	3	--	8
Fair.....	51	44	27	27
Good.....	45	53	69	49
Excellent.....	--	--	4	12
Sugarbeets				
Very poor.....	--	--	9	3
Poor.....	--	--	11	7
Fair.....	19	20	16	26
Good.....	65	65	48	49
Excellent.....	16	15	16	15

NA – not available

(--) – zero